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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 84
By Newton

A RESOLUTION to urge Congress to designate surplus funds earmarked for economic development in the Ocoee Region to be used in Polk County and the Ocoee Region of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly recognizes economic developments that could prove to be a valuable asset to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Ocoee Region Canoe and Kayak Association, Polk County Chamber of Commerce, Ocoee-Hiwassee Tourism Association, CAN-DO, Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association and the Bradley County Chamber of Commerce are committed to the continued development of community activities and furthering the goal of economic development for the Ocoee Region of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation provides a means of continued tourism interest and development in the Ocoee Region. The region will significantly benefit with new trails for horses and expanded whitewater rafting, without environmental damage, with the opening of 6 more miles of the river to commercial rafting and when finished, the effort could create 321 jobs and pump \$24.8 million annually into the four counties surrounding the Ocoee; and

WHEREAS, the new economic development plan for the Cherokee National Forest is designed to generate as much development as possible without harming the environment; and

WHEREAS, it is the Ocoee Region that hosted the Olympic Canoe and Kayak races in 1996 that left behind a \$28 million project, the Ocoee Whitewater Center; and

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WHEREAS, rafting on the Ocoee, whose flow is controlled by Tennessee Valley Authority dams, already fuels a thriving tourist industry and the General Assembly has always endeavored to work and honor the wishes of citizens and local governments on matters of local concern; and

WHEREAS, community groups and organizations that are interested in the economic growth and development of the Ocoee Region could be further fueled by any surplus funds designated or earmarked for economic development in the Ocoee Region and directly Polk County, which is one of the most economically depressed counties with 60% of the land in Polk County being in the Cherokee National Forest; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby urge Congress that any surplus funds designated or earmarked for economic development in the Ocoee Region be used for continued growth and economic development of Polk County and the Ocoee Region of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation with this final clause omitted from such copies.